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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 7 October 1949

SUBJECT Political Directions for the KP0e
if a Rebellion Succeeds

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

a. Maj. GAVRILOV, head of Soviet artists groups on featured tours in Austria and actually a high political functionary who, as manager of these groups, carries secret orders from MOSCOW, had a long conversation with KOPLINIG, HONNER and FUERNBERG, leaders of the Communist Party of Austria and members of the Central Committee of this party, on 28 August 1949. He informed them of the following Cominform orders which the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria would have to execute in case of a successful rebellion:

(1) Only members of the Communist Party of Austria will be given legal protection and guaranteed civic rights. Strict censorship (mail and telephone) will be established. Non-Communists will have no right of defense. Right of free assembly and freedom of speech, press, demonstration and organization will be rescinded. All Fascists will be persecuted. Strikes by workers and employees will be suppressed. Right of work, recreation, pension and education for Communist citizens will be established immediately. Equality of political, economic and social rights for women will be granted. Any interference by the church with policy or party matters will be suppressed. All political opponents of the Communist Party of Austria will be immediately detained in concentration camps. The government committee of the Communist Party of Austria will be composed as follows:

Prime Minister: Johann KOPLINIG
Deputy Prime Minister: Ernst FISCHER
Secretary of the Interior: Vice President of Police STROBL
Secretary of Labor: Victor ELSNER
Secretary of Agriculture: Laurenz GENNER
Secretary of Industry: Dr. Karl ALTMANN
Secretary of Action Groups: Franz LONNER
Secretary General of Culture: Dr. Victor MATEJKA
Secretary General of the Party: Friedl FUERNBERG
Provincial Secretary for VIENNA: Josef LAUSCHER
Provincial Secretary for Lower Austria: Franz HONNER
Provincial Secretary for the Burgenland: Otto MOEWLADL, engineer

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(2) If the Progressive Socialists do not oppose the rebellion by the Communist Party of Austria, Erwin SCHARF will be appointed Secretary of Education with the provisional government. Other leading Progressive Socialists will be appointed under-secretaries, but will be placed under strict control.

(3) All anti-Communist functionaries in state offices will be arrested and replaced by members of the Communist Party of Austria.

(4) The sections of the Communist Party of Austria in the western provinces of Austria will be advised to maintain strict discipline. Leaders of the Communist Party of Austria in the western provinces who have no safe quarters, will flee to the Soviet Zone of Austria to evade arrest by the Allies.

(5) Johann KASIANKA, Franz PESKOLLER, Josef TSCHOFENIG and Franz RABIC, main functionaries in Carinthia, will try to reach Hungarian territory via Styria. The Hungarian authorities will be advised. Functionaries from Styria who cannot go to Lower Austria, will also flee to Hungary. Functionaries from Upper Austria and Salzburg will go to the Soviet-controlled Muehlviertel, those from Tyrol and Vorarlberg will cross the border into Switzerland, if necessary. All secret files will be destroyed. The individual organizations must, however, leave in their spheres of activity liaison groups of reliable and skillfully camouflaged Austro-Marxists who will continue illegal party activities.

b. No reference was made to the role of the Soviet Army in Austria. GAVRILOV only mentioned that, by order of MOSCOW, the Soviet Occupation Power has to support the entire planning for the rebellion. A group of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria, to be appointed by the Cominform and allegedly composed of MONNER, STROBL and KOPLENIG, will be given further directives by the high command of the Soviet Occupation Power.

Comment:

This information proves that the Communists have not yet decided on a rebellion in the Soviet Zone of Austria on 9 October 1945, but want to be ready for action in any case. Since the Communists in Austria are numerically weak, the successful outcome of a rebellion in the Soviet Zone of Austria would largely depend on far-reaching support by the Soviet Occupation Power. It is doubted that MOSCOW would now risk such a dangerous adventure.

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